

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-9, 11-16, and 18-20 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-9, 11-16, and 18-20 are amended, and claims 5, 7, 10, and 17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bauer et al. (hereinafter “Bauer”), U.S. Patent No. 4,656,926. Claims 5, 7, 10, and 17 have been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it applies to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a dial knob mounted on the control panel, the dial knob including a coupling shaft formed at a center portion thereof and having a predetermined length and a plurality of guide ribs formed on an outer surface of the coupling shaft, and a coupling member configured to be inserted at an end of the coupling shaft through the output adjusting gear so as to fix the output adjusting gear to the dial knob, wherein at least one of the plurality of guide ribs penetrates through the output adjusting gear and at least one other of the plurality of guide ribs is positioned spaced apart from the output adjusting gear. Independent claim 9 recites, *inter alia*, a coupling shaft that extends from a center portion of the dial knob with a predetermined length, a plurality of guide ribs formed on an outer surface of the coupling shaft, an output adjusting gear having a shaft hole into which the coupling shaft is inserted, and a coupling member configured to be inserted into the coupling shaft through the output adjusting

gear to fix the output adjusting gear to the dial knob so that the output adjusting gear integrally rotates with the dial knob, wherein at least one of the plurality of guide ribs penetrates through the output adjusting gear and at least one other of the plurality of guide ribs is positioned spaced apart from the output adjusting gear.

Independent claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, a dial knob including a coupling shaft and a plurality of guide ribs, an output adjusting gear coupled to the dial knob that transmits a rotation motion of the dial knob, the output adjusting gear including a shaft hole, a control panel having a knob hole into which the dial knob is rotatably inserted and a stop projection that extends from a circumference of the knob hole toward a center of the knob hole, and a coupling member configured to be inserted into the coupling shaft through the shaft hole of the output adjusting gear, such that the dial knob is coupled to the output adjusting gear, wherein at least one of the plurality of guide ribs penetrates through the output adjusting gear and at least one other of the plurality of guide ribs is positioned spaced apart from the output adjusting gear. Bauer does not disclose or suggest at least such features of independent claims 1, 9, and 18, or the respective claimed combinations.

That is, regarding independent claim 1, the Office Action asserted that element 71 (disclosed by Bauer as a ring projection) corresponded to the claimed coupling shaft of independent claim 1 and element 48 (disclosed by Bauer as a snap-in clasp) corresponded to the claimed at least one guide rib of independent claim 1, referring Fig. 1, column 3, lines 64-68, and column 4, lines 1-5 of Bauer. However, Bauer discloses a control knob 4 rotatably mounted in a

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front panel 2 having a disk-shaped base part 45 and four snap-in clasps 48 distributed evenly over a circumference of the base part 45 which cooperate with recesses 49 in a driving bevel gear 7 to form a snap-in connection. Bauer, in such passages, merely discloses that the snap-in clasps 48 are attached to the ring projection 71. Further, the base part 45 of the control knob 4 of Bauer includes a recess at a center of the base part 45 that receives a light guide 56 through the bevel gear 7. See, for example, Figs. 1 and 3, column 3, line 52-column 4, line 7, and column 4, lines 33-39 of Bauer. It is respectfully submitted that the ring projection 71 of Bauer is not formed at a center portion of the control knob 4 and having a predetermined length, and the snap-in clasps 48 of Bauer are not formed on an outer surface of the ring projection 71. Further, Bauer does not disclose or suggest wherein at least one of the plurality of guide ribs penetrates through the output adjusting gear and at least one other of the plurality of guide ribs is positioned spaced apart from the output adjusting gear, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, Bauer does not disclose or suggest the claimed coupling member configured to be inserted at an end of the coupling shaft through the output adjusting gear so as to fix the output adjusting gear to the dial knob, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Bauer should be withdrawn. Independent claims 9 and 18 recite features similar to independent claim 1, and therefore, are allowable over Bauer for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1. Dependent claims 2-4, 6, 8, 11-16, and 19-20 are allowable over Bauer at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 9, and 18, from which they

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respectively depend, as well as for their added features.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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